

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SIL-01 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 311015Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5117

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 2553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAHS: PINT,MT

SUBJ: PIONEER CORPS DEMONSTRATION

1. ON SATURDAY, DEC 29, APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED OF THE 4,000 ODD MEMBERS OF THE PARA-MILITARY PIONEER CORPS STAGED A DEMONSTRATION TO DEMAND HIGHER PAY AND\*FORTY HOUR WEEK.

2. THE MAIN BODY ASSEMBLED AT TIGNE BARRACKS IN SLIEMA AND MARCHED FIVE MILES TO VALLETTA, WHERE THEY TRA\*ERSED THE LENGTH OF KINGSWAY TO FORT ST. ELMO IN ORDER TO INDUCE MEMBERS STATIONED THERE TO JOIN THEM. THIS HAVING FAILED, GROUP MARCHED BACK THROUGH VALLETTA TO P.M.'S OFFICE AT THE AUBERGE DE CASTILLE, WHERE MINTOFF AGREED TO MEET WITH SOME OF THEM IN HIS OUTER OFFICE.

3. ACCORDING PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES, MINTOFF WAS EXTREMELY ANGRY, AND TOLD THEM THAT AS MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES MALTA THEY MUST ABIDE BY REGULATIONS AND REFUSED TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS. HE TOLD THEM, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD OVERLOOK  
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THEIR PRESENT TRANSGRESSION, CND THAT SATURDAY COULD BE DEVOTED

TO SPORTS RATHER THAN THEIR REGULAR WORK ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT READ TOO MUCH INTO THIS INCIDENT ALTHOUGH IT WAS FIRST MAJOR OPEN DEMONSTRATION OF DISSATISFACTION WITHIN THE CORPS. SEVERAL NATIONALIST\* M.P.S TOLD US FOLLOWING EVENING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A PLAN F\*R ALL PIONEER CORPS MEMBERS NOT TO REPORT FOR WORK ON SATURDAY (GOM INDUSTRIES HAVE JUST BEEN GRANTED 40 HOUR WEEK), BUT THAT ONLY A PART OF THE TIGNE BARRACKS CONTINGENT FOLLOWED THROUGH.

5. THE MAJORITY OF THE CORPS ARE MINTOFF LOYALISTS, AND ALTHOUGH SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS MAY OCCUR AGAIN, THERE IS LITTLE DOOUBT THAT HE CAN KEEP THEM UNDER HIS CONTROL.TUCKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, WAGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 31 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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